



Europe

13 July 2009
PRESS RELEASE

Internet Governance:

Europe's e-communications providers call on the EU to ensure a truly multi-stakeholder model for ICANN

BRUSSELS – The effective technical coordination and management of the Internet's domain name and addressing systems, which is ICANN's core mission, is a crucial element for the stability and growth of the Internet and hence for Europe's e-communications providers and the global business community. As the Joint Project Agreement (JPA) between ICANN and the US Department of Commerce comes to an end, ETNO, EuroISPA and GSMA Europe - representing Europe's leading e-communications providers - strongly call on the EU to ensure that the private-sector led multi-stakeholder model on which ICANN is built is preserved and enforced, as a key factor of Internet's success.

Significant progress has been achieved as regards the involvement of governments in ICANN's Policy Development Process. The Government Advisory Committee (GAC) has improved its ability to produce principles and policy advice in a timely and coordinated manner, along with its interaction with the other ICANN governance entities. Certainly there is room for more and better governmental involvement, particularly through increased and meaningful participation in the existing mechanisms.

The accountability of ICANN to its entire stakeholder community is the cornerstone of its transition to a fully independent and privatised international organisation in its own right for the benefit of global stakeholders. An oversight function of ICANN by governments only, as implied in the European Commission's recent communication "Internet Governance: the next steps"¹, or an intergovernmental body, would contradict the goal to move ICANN responsibilities to the private sector and would not appropriately take into account all stakeholders.

Considering the significant impact of Internet on the world economy as well as on our everyday lives and businesses, Europe's e-communications providers strongly believe that the only way forward is for ICANN to be accountable to all its stakeholders and that all stakeholders must equally be involved in the definition and implementation of public policies, as also strongly expressed by the World Summit on Information Society.

¹ COM (2009) 277 final 18/06/09

The contributors to this joint statement are:

	<p>ETNO (the European Telecommunications Network Operators' Association - www.etno.eu) is the voice of the European telecommunications network operators with over a decade of experience in shaping EU telecoms policy. The association represents 42 companies located in 36 European countries. They account for an aggregate annual turnover of more than 250 billion Euros and employ over one million people across Europe.</p>
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	<p>EuroISPA is the world's largest association of Internet Services Providers (ISPs) representing the interests of more than 1700 ISPs across the EU and the EFTA countries. EuroISPA is a major voice of the Internet industry on information society subjects such as cybercrime, data protection, e-commerce regulation, EU telecommunications law and safe use of the Internet (www.euroispa.org).</p>
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 <p>Europe</p>	<p>The GSMA in Europe represents 171 operators in 51 countries/areas in Europe and counts around 600 million subscribers. Globally, the GSM Association represents over 700 operators in over 200 countries and counts around 3.8 billion subscribers (www.gsmeurope.org).</p>
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